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11/25/97**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION REPORT****I. HEADING****Date:** November 25, 1997**Subject:** Emergency Response at the Weltmeyer Acid Spill Site, Harvey, Cook County, Illinois.**From:** Fred Bartman, Region 5 U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator**To:** Kevin Mould, OSWER (703) 603-9116  
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Ed Osowski, IEPA (708) 338-7897  
Dep. Fire Chief Richard Furlong, City of Harvey (708) 210-5451**POLREP** 2 - Final POLREP**II. BACKGROUND****Site No:** N/A**CERCLIS No:** N/A**Response Authority:** CERCLA**State Notification:** IEPA**Demobilization Date:** N/A**Status of Action Memorandum:** Issued 10/24/97**Delivery Order No:** N/A**ERNS No:****NPL Status:** Non-NPL**Start Date:** 10/23/97**Completion Date:** N/A**III. SITE DESCRIPTION****A. Incident Category:** CERCLA**B. Site Location:** Weltmeyer Acid Spill  
14752 Spaulding  
Harvey, Cook County, Illinois**1. Site description:**

The Weltmeyer Acid Spill Site is an inactive truck and automotive repair garage located in a mixed residential and industrial area at 14752 Spaulding in Harvey, Cook County, Illinois. On October 22, 1997, an acid spill from a tanker trailer located on the east side of the property was reported to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). From

eyewitness accounts, apparently the tanker was being salvaged for its metal content and drain holes were cut from the tanker to drain out the acid onto the ground.

On October 23, 1997, emergency responders from the IEPA, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and its Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) contractor responded to the incident and met on site with officials from the Harvey Fire Department and Police Departments. START performed an initial site reconnaissance with U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Kevin Turner and IEPA Ed Osowski. The site was overgrown with vegetation and was found in disrepair. The acid spill had been contained to the general spill area and had soaked into the ground. The acid apparently pooled on the ground, reacted with the underlying soil, and ran downslope under a neighboring storage trailer. The site is completely unsecured with easy access to public. START conducted initial air monitoring of the site, including areas around the spill area, the tanker trailers, and inside the building (garage). Results of the air monitoring indicated no levels above background for volatile organic gases, explosive gases, oxygen, carbon monoxide, and hydrogen sulfide. START photodocumented the site conditions and drew a site sketch.

START collected samples from three of the four tankers, the soil from the spill area, and from two drums and one storage bag located inside the building. All samples were analyzed for pH and total metals. The drum liquid sample was also analyzed for total volatile organic compounds and flashpoint. All samples were delivered to a laboratory for chemical analysis on October 24, 1997.

**2. Description of threat:**

START conducted air monitoring and field sampling at several locations. START conducted initial hazard categorization of the samples. Results indicated all liquid samples from the tankers had a pH of 0 and contained chlorine. The tankers were suspected of containing hydrochloric acid. The soil sample from the spill area had a pH of 2 and also contained chlorine. An area approximately 30 feet in diameter was affected by the spill runoff and has been suspected to contain acid. The green solid sample collected from the bulkhead bags inside the building also had a pH of 2 and contained chlorine. The sample collected from the drum labelled "Sherwin Williams" had a pH of 2 and contained chromium. The materials contained in the tankers and stored inside the garage pose a threat to human health and the environment.

- C. Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection Results The Weltmeyer Acid Spill site has not been previously evaluated under the Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection investigative phases.

The incident was initially reported to the National Response Center by IEPA. IEPA then contacted U.S. EPA to request U.S. EPA's assistance.

**IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION**

**A. Situation**

**1. Current situation:**

At the time of the response, weather conditions were cold, overcast, with periods of rain and drizzle, with a high temperature of 45°F.

**2. Removal activities to date:**

A site removal action was conducted by U.S. EPA's Emergency Response Cleanup Services (ERCS) contractor. The ERCS contractor initiated removal action on October 24, 1997, by mobilizing to the site and conducting spill cleanup and sampling of all wastestreams on site. A uniloaders was mobilized to remove the top layer of soil (approximately 4-inch depth) within the spill area and to place the contaminated soil and other debris into a rolloff box that was staged outside the garage. A rented poly tank was also brought on site to store any liquid wastes that were not immediately disposed of. Waste containers, including drums, bags, and small cans and buckets, were inventoried, labelled, and consolidated into a room inside the garage. The room was boarded up and caution tape placed over the doorway. On October 25, 1997, two tanker trucks from Heritage Environmental pumped out approximately 9,000 gallons of waste acid from three tankers (T-01, T-03, and T-02). Not all the acid was removed from the tankers, so another tanker was scheduled for October 27, 1997. Caution tape was also placed around all of the tankers and in front of the garage entrance to the street. All equipment was properly decontaminated. All personnel were demobilized on October 25, 1997. Analytical results are pending.

On October 27, 1997, a third tanker truck from Heritage Environmental arrived on site to receive residual waste acid from the on-site tankers. U.S. EPA OSC Fred Bartman departed the site at that time.

On November 12, 1997, U.S. EPA, ERCS and START re-mobilized to the site to complete removal actions. A total of sixty 55-gallon drums of acid waste solids were removed from the tankers. Three of the drums previously staged in the garage were overpacked along with lab packs of smaller containers for disposal. An additional 300 gallons of acid waste liquid was discovered in tanker T-01 and was pumped into a Heritage Environmental tanker truck for disposal. The bags of Sulfamic acid were placed in four 1-cubic yard boxes for disposal. The empty tankers were cut up into 6 ft. by 8 ft. pieces with a shears attachment on an excavator and placed in 20 yd<sup>3</sup> rolloff boxes for disposal. A 20-cubic yard rolloff of soil excavated from the spill area was sent off for disposal.

~~On November 17, 1997, all site work was completed, the site was secured, and all personnel departed site.~~

**3. Enforcement:** U.S. EPA and IEPA will coordinate enforcement on this incident.

**B. Planned Removal Actions**

Removal actions under the emergency action authority have been completed.

**C. Next Steps**

Schedule disposal of the three 20 yd<sup>3</sup> rolloff boxes of steel from the dismantled tankers.

**D. Key Issues**

N/A.

**E. Disposition of Wastes**

<b>Wastestream</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Treatment</b>	<b>Disposal</b>
Hazardous Waste Liquid	<u>Acid from tanker</u>	<u>9,300 gallons</u>	Neutralization	Heritage, Indianapolis, IN
Non-Hazardous Waste Solid	Drum of grease	55 gallons		Heritage, Lemont, IL
Hazardous Waste Liquid	Drums of paint	110 gallons		Heritage, Lemont, IL
Hazardous Waste Liquid/ Soilds	Aersols and small containers	2 loosepacks		Heritage, Lemont, IL
Non-Hazardous Waste Solid	Soil	10 yd <sup>3</sup>	Landfill	Heritage, Indianapolis, IN
Hazardous Waste Soild	Bags of Sulfamic Acid	4 yd <sup>3</sup>		Heritage, Lemont, IL
Hazardous Waste Solid	Metal from tankers	60 yd <sup>3</sup>		